

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application Of: ) Confirmation No. 6535  
)  
Samuel M. SHAOLIAN et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3733  
)  
Application Number: 10/607,070 ) Examiner: HOFFMAN, M.  
)  
Filed: June 25, 2003 )  
)  
For: TRANSPEDICULAR )  
INTERVERTEBRAL DISK )  
ACCESS METHODS AND )  
DEVICES )

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.113

**MAIL STOP AFTER FINAL**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

In response to the Office Action mailed December 19, 2006 (the "Office Action"), Applicants provide the following response. A brief index of the present communication follows.

Listing of the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.